

Celebrate

The termly newsletter of **Richmond upon Thames College**

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Travel & Tourism Department Celebrates Excellence



Last month our Travel & Tourism department participated in an 'Awards Day' to celebrate the success and achievements of its students and staff.

In the last year the department has welcomed new teachers, congratulated long-serving staff members and was rated as 'outstanding' by the Corporate Leadership Team.

Attendees reminisced about the fantastic trips and events they have participated in and outstanding students were then presented with awards, acknowledging their academic achievements, high attendance levels and general excellence.

Message from our Leadership Team

Richmond upon Thames College is a vibrant, diverse and friendly community. We are a careers college where you can choose from 100+ courses and our staff support all students to achieve their ambitions. Our state of the art campus has a range of outstanding facilities which will ensure our students have the skills, knowledge and experience to progress.

We offer our students many enrichment opportunities, including college trips, cultural experiences and a range of sports activities. The winter term has been a busy one and we are proud of the successes and achievements of our students and staff over the past few months.

In this edition of our termly Celebrate newsletter, you can read about the wonderful and inspiring stories of what students and staff have achieved.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Spring break!



RuTC Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week



Mateusz Spicha Speaking at NAW

From 5-11 February RuTC, along with colleges around the country, celebrated National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2024.

NAW brings together those that are passionate about apprenticeships and is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of apprentices and the institutions that support them. The theme this year was 'Skills for Life' and on each day throughout the week, students at RuTC were given the opportunity to learn more about different aspects of apprenticeships, these included 'Employer Tuesday', 'Apprentice Wednesday' and 'Celebration Friday'.

'Employer Tuesday' involved an employers' breakfast event in partnership with Richmond Chamber of Commerce, inviting our apprentices' employers along with other guests into the college to learn more about the programme, its successes and explore the many benefits of apprenticeships.

The event was a huge success, with many esteemed attendees, including the Mayor of Richmond - Councillor Suzette Nicholson and HRUC CEO, Keith Smith. Former RuTC apprentice, Mateusz Spicha spoke about his experience working at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and his road to receiving a distinction award as a final grade. Guests also heard from RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, on the offerings for apprentices at RuTC and updates on the progress of our new STEM building, which will be ready for our 2024 intake.

A-Level Graphics & Illustration Students Visit Sea World



In February, our 1st year A-Level Graphics & Illustration and Fine Art students visited Sea Life, by the River Thames. On this trip they were able to take part in a moving subject drawing and photography research session from direct observation.

We absolutely love giving our students opportunities like this to learn and study outside of the classroom!

RuTC Celebrate Staff Achievements at Awards Ceremony

On the last day of our winter term we held a Christmas lunch and staff awards ceremony, to thank and celebrate staff throughout the college for their hard work and achievements.

The awards presentation was hosted by RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes and festive entertainment was provided by our music lecturers. A raffle also took place, giving participants the chance to win a number of brilliant prizes.

There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day with lots of support for staff accomplishments and was a wonderful way to end the term on a high note.



RuTC Celebrates College's Week



From 26 February-1 March we celebrated 'Colleges Week', an annual initiative organised by the Association of Colleges.

The AoC launched 'Colleges Week' in 2018 as part of the #LoveOurColleges campaign, as an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the brilliant things colleges do to support learners and staff. The theme this year was 'Influencing, Engaging, Celebrating'.

Various events and interactive lessons were organised in the college to support the celebration. Our HR department ran a 'Health & Wellbeing Fair' available to all students and staff which featured stalls from various health organisations, including the NHS and equality charity, METRO.

RuTC also delivered a Women in STEM Conference to Year 10s at our neighbouring school, Richmond upon Thames School. This was a brilliant opportunity to inspire and empower young women to pursue studying science, technology and engineering subjects.

To round off the celebrations, students were asked to leave comments detailing what they love most about attending RuTC on our digital forum.

The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with one student saying, "I love how diverse and unique this college is" and another quoting, "The teachers are very helpful, and they understand us."

Careers Week Comes to College

We had a fantastic 'Careers Week' at RuTC, from 4-9 March!

There were a number of brilliant events happening to help our students get prepared for life after college. We ran a workshop day with Heathrow Airport, one of our biggest employer partners, where representatives discussed employment and apprenticeship options with our students.

Our STEM departments also organised talks from working doctors, where they were able to give advice and answer questions on their careers in medicine and our Careers Advisor, Kiran, ran an Education Roadshow, discussing courses and facilities at RuTC and the wider college group, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges).

Mid week we ran our first Open Event of the calendar year, welcoming lots of prospective new students hoping to take the first steps towards their future career.



Heathrow Academy attend RuTC



RuTC Head of School for Science & Computing, Lee Roberts, with Industry Speakers



Students Complete International Work Placements through Turing Scheme

Through the Turing Scheme, ten of our students at HRUC have successfully completed a month's work placement in Gqeberha in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The Turing Scheme is a UK government programme providing funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world.

Of this fortunate group, three RuTC students worked in townships where there is very high rates of poverty, unemployment, and HIV diagnoses. They worked in several schools through the United Through Sport charity model to provide coaching, teaching, swimming, and childcare to residents.

The students were working alongside international volunteers from the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy, where they were able to develop their social skills and ability to interact with individuals from different backgrounds. As well as this, involvement in the project provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their organisational skills, confidence, professionalism, teamwork and understanding of new cultures.



RuTC Students on Work Placements in Gqeberha, Port Elizabeth



Spring Music Concert

Towards the end of term our Music students presented a Spring Music Concert in our college Auditorium for a packed audience.

Highlights included Music Performance & Production student Luka, who composed and played an original song on guitar as well as performing some well known classics.

The department raised an incredible £245 through tickets sales, which will be used to replace some faulty music equipment and purchase some new items.



Business Trade Fair



Young Enterprise students from RuTC engaged and took part in a fantastic event held at the Richmond Trade Fair in Kingston selling their 'SWD' (Safe When Drinking) reusable drinks cover.

They delivered sales pitches to raise awareness, and educate the public on the increasing problem of drink spiking, enthusing the sustainable and high quality benefits of their product. The event was attended by many important stakeholders, including the Mayor of Kingston Upon Thames, Councillor Diane White and the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Suzette Nicholson. The team managed to sell £50 worth of their product, with proceeds going back into the business and profit distributed to shareholders.

A huge congratulations to our students and thank you to those who supported on the day!

Supported Learning Students Deliver Donations to Local Food Bank



Our Supported Learning students have been busy over the last couple of months collecting donations to create food parcels for local charity Feltham Food Bank.

At the beginning of March, students and staff successfully organised and delivered a van full of necessities for those most in need in the community.

Red Nose Day at RuTC

Students and staff participated in fundraising activities during the week of Red Nose Day 2024, raising £128 for the wonderful charitable cause, Comic Relief.

Our Early Years department ran a bake sale, selling delicious baked goods over a lunch time and a much anticipated comedy show took place in our Auditorium, which saw students and staff take to the stage to show off their talents and entertain a busy audience. The events rounded off with the Principal of RuTC being dunked in gunge!



RuTC Hosts Six Nations Rugby Events with Allianz

RuTC recently partnered with financial services company, Allianz, to host two separate events at the college when England played at Twickenham during the Six Nations 2024 tournament. These events took place in RuTC's wonderful college restaurant, The View.

Catering and Hospitality students, led by RuTC's brilliant teaching staff, prepared, cooked and served a delicious three-course meal for Allianz representatives and over 100 guests at each event.

Front of House lead, Daniele, commented, "It was amazing to see our students do so well at such a high profile professional event."

The events were a huge success, bringing together a mix of rugby fans to create a real buzz around the exciting games with high profile guest speakers sharing their insights and anecdotes to entertain guests.

Jade McDonald, from the team at Allianz praised RuTC staff and students for their hard work at these events:

"It was a pleasure working with RuTC. Thank you for all your patience and help behind the scenes and for making the organisation of our events with you so memorable for us and our guests. The food was amazing, and the waiting staff led by Daniele were incredible."



Allianz Guests in RuTC's
The View Restaurant



ESOL Student Wins Jack Petchey Award

One of our fantastic ESOL students recently won a Jack Petchey Award for excellence. Student Sadana has been working hard to gain the prize, which includes £300 to put towards a treat or something beneficial for her class. She has decided to use this for a class trip to Brighton, where students will have the chance to see and learn about the British seaside town.

Her teacher, Ashrita commented:

"Sadana is a polite and respectful student. She is always punctual to her classes, takes a keen interest in all her lessons and participates willingly. She is also very helpful and offers to help her peers and friends regularly.

She is very diligent and has high aspirations for herself. She wants to pursue further studies and become a teacher later in life, which she is very much capable of!"

Well done Sadana!



RuTC Hosts Comic Con Day

In late March, we held our very own Comic Con day at the college, an annual celebration of comic book culture.

The chosen theme for this year was Doctor Who and there were plenty of exciting events for our students and staff to get involved in throughout the day. These included a K-9 building competition and race, screening of Doctor Who, a raffle and comic quiz. The main event of the day was a cosplay dress up competition, where students paraded their costumes down the runway and had the chance to win two tickets to the Comin Con UK Convention at Olympia London.

The events finished with members of staff strutting their stuff in our auditorium, showing off their brilliant costumes for their chance to win prizes.

There was a fantastic buzz about the day and a huge involvement from everyone throughout the college!



RuTC Students & Staff
Dress up for
Comic Con Day 2024



Apply now!



Want to join RuTC?

Browse our courses and apply online for September 2024 at: www.rutc.ac.uk/courses

Or come and visit us at an Open Event in the new year. Browse dates and register at: www.rutc.ac.uk/openevents

Read more of our latest news stories at: www.rutc.ac.uk/news